

Persuasion: *One of the best ways to persuade others is with your ears—by listening to them.*
—Dean Rusk, American statesman, 1909-1994

District bids Aloha to outgoing Commander

Nearly 80 people turned out for lunch at the Hale Ikena on Fort Shafter on Wednesday, June 28 in an enthusiastic outpouring of farewells for Lt. Col. Wally Z. Walters upon completing a two-year tour of duty as the 61st District Engineer and Commander of Honolulu Engineer District. Gifts were presented by members of the various District work groups and Walters took the opportunity to recognize the achievements of some of HED's key players. Architect Gary Nip, EC-D, was master of ceremonies and project engineer Jerry Cornell, PP-C, led the invocation.--Alexander Kufel



HED employee...

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are most proud."

Nakamura has been with the District since 1993. Projects he has been involved with include the Army's establishment of water treatment plants wherever the chemical "trichlorethylene" is found in the local water supply, disposal of chemical waste at Johnston Island, and the establishment of a partnership between HED, the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research and the Univ. of Hawaii for developing sustainable technologies for Hawaii and the Asia Pacific Basin. He said that any successes he has had are largely as a result of his supervisors who gave him the opportunity to take chances and risk failure.

"Actually," said Nakamura. "You learn the most from your failures, but nothing feels as good as getting something right; especially if you can do that in concert with other people."

Concern for the environment plays a very important part in the decisions that Nakamura makes. He said that as a youngster growing up in Mountain View on the Big Island of Hawaii, nearness to Volcano National Park was an enormous influence.

"I got interested in nature by park-ranger friends and participated in bird surveys and plant surveys. I spent many wonderful hours counting endangered birds and plants," he said. It's no coincidence that earlier this spring, Nakamura gave up some Saturdays to participate in a DPW (Division of Public Works)-sponsored Earth Day trail improvement project in Poamaho near Wahiawa, and rallied co-workers to do the same. Twenty-five years later, Nakamura still keeps in touch with his ranger friends.

Debbie, Nakamura's wife, who also was at the awards luncheon, said that she knows how strongly Dan feels about things and is very aware of the extra time he takes to get things right.

Nakamura also was recipient of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' National Environmental Engineer of the Year award in 1998.



Dan Nakamura, EC-E, receives his award from Navy Capt. G.P. Caldwell, FEB Chair, and keynote speaker Larry Embley while HED Commander Lt. Col. Wally Walters looks on.